



Oracle State Park

P.O. Box 700
Oracle, AZ 85623
(520) 896-2425

May 2012



Watch the Century Plant stalk grow!

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

Thank you all for your help to make the re-opening of Oracle State Park a success. Here's the breakdown of attendance and revenue for the three months:

Total Revenue: \$6,132
Total Attendance: 3,757
School Programs: 13
Participating Students: 513

Revenue came from (in \$ order): day use vehicle fees, annual park pass sales, school programs, donation box, workshop fees and group use area reservation. Revenue was highest in February and March. Attendance averaged 233 on a given Saturday.

Over the summer, Jennifer's schedule at Catalina is: **Sunday through Thursday, 9 am-5:30 pm**. The Catalina State Park office number is: **520-628-5798**.

ORACLE STATE PARK REOPENS SEPTEMBER 1ST

OSP will re-open to the public on a limited basis September, October and November 2012. The park

will re-open **SATURDAYS ONLY** for day use, and by reservation weekdays for Environmental Education programs.

While the park is closed for the summer, trails and road are closed, **except the Arizona Trail**.

The Arizona Trail is accessible for the public from Highway 77 at Tiger Mine Road, or further up Mt. Lemmon Road.

ON-SITE CARETAKER UPDATE

We may have new caretakers arriving in the next few weeks, to live on-site at the park over the summer. A second volunteer couple has applied to arrive the end of September and stay through April. More details to come once arrangements are confirmed.

THANK YOU SCHOOL PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS

11 volunteers deserve special thanks for leading environmental education trail programs for school students this spring: **Thanks Don Raffety, Nancy Manning, Shay Cardell, Sheila Clarkin, Dale Redies, Rick Gagnon, Jacqueline Ginter**, and new guides **Mary Ellen Flynn, Dick Boyer, Dave Corrigan and Marsha Ma**.

Thank you **Dale Redies** for helping with the guide training! -- and thanks **Val Bembenek and Conni Holderman** for providing ingredients and baking mesquite cookies for the Adventure Program.

THANK YOU SATURDAY VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to everyone who helped with shifts in the office and gatehouse – **Pat Berky, Kathleen Bober, Judy & Gene Smith, Margery & John**

Cox, Lournene Frey, Nanette Weaver, Jacqueline Ginter, Sheryl & Lew Perry, Cindy Krupicka, Collins Cochran, Ed McManus, Chip Parfet, Judie Raffety, Dick Boyer, Janet Fayleen and Charlotte Poole.

Special Thanks also **Val Bembenek** for publicity help and for offering workshops to the public; thanks also **Wolfgang Mueller, Mary Ellen Flynn, Gaston Meloche and Mary Bast** for leading tours and educational presentations on Saturdays.

Thank you also to Gardeners! -**Mary Ann Pogany, Cindy Krupicka, Val Bembenek, Linnie & George Bradley and Chuck LeFevre.**

The patios and blooms have looked great this spring. Thanks volunteers who helped with trail, fencing and other maintenance projects over the last few months.

THANKS EARTH DAY VOLUNTEERS



Kathie Schroeder with Harris Hawk

Thank you Earth Day presenters for making our April 21 celebration a fun and educational day outdoors for the 250 visitors in attendance. It was a low-key event but all programs had an audience and it was enjoyed by all.

Thanks **Mary Ellen Flynn** for the Bird Walk, **Wolfgang Mueller** presentation on Gems of Arizona, **Gaston Meloche** Arizona Trail Loop Hike, **Mary Bast** House Tours, **Rick Gagnon & Jerry Orr** Bug Table, & **Dale Redies** for coordinating the activities for kids, including inviting the Rolling Rivers Trailer: Watershed Erosion Model, which was educational for adult visitors too, hosted by NRCD out of Willcox.

Thanks also to **Larry Weaver** for playing music, and **Kathie Schroeder** for showing and talking about the Harris Hawk.

And thanks to **Val Bembenek & Mary Ann Pogany** for help with Earth Day publicity and live music, along with all 35 volunteers who helped in the gatehouse, office or with the activity booths or canopy set-up/tear down.

NEW ASP DIRECTOR AND CHIEF OF OPS

Bryan Martyn, former Pinal County Supervisor representing the Apache Junction area, began May 1st as the new Executive Director of Arizona State Parks. He was elected to the PCS board in November 2008, after retiring from the U.S. Army as an Apache helicopter pilot. Martyn was a member of the Friends of Lost Dutchman State Park and Friends of Arizona State Parks Foundation before being selected from a nationwide search.

ALSO, ASP Chief of Operations and former Oracle State Park Manager, **Janet Hawks**, has been promoted to a position with Santa Clara County Parks in California as their Deputy Director of Parks. Her last day with the agency was March 30. Her personal email is: jhawks17@cox.net for those of you who knew her during her time at Oracle and wish to say hello.

HELP NEEDED

Summer volunteer needs (especially if we do not get a caretaker host for the summer)...

Daily Weather readings! Can you sign up once a week at least for May? For June? Quick easy training provided.

Help patrol the park & report to Jennifer! Some of the things we're concerned about...ranch house security, water leaks, fire threat, brush pile behind corrals combusting (needs to be spread out and watered down), fence-line breaks, horse and tire tracks in washes, overgrown trails or downed trees.

Also, lemon berries are almost ripe and soon it will be time to pick and dry them in preparation for Fall School Programs.



Mesquite beans need to be gathered too! It should be a plentiful

harvest this summer - the yellow mesquite flowers are plump already.

Email or contact Jennifer to set something up!

**THURSDAY, MAY 31
MAINTENANCE WORKPARTY
7AM-9:30AM**

Help clean up in anticipation of fire season! Let Jennifer know if you can join a work-party on Thursday, May 31 from 7am-9:30am. Depending on the current need, we'll probably grab loppers and trim trees at the Kannally Ranch House parking lot and Group Area— and cut away dead branches around the corrals and picnic areas.

FENCELINE BOUNDARY UPDATE

Thanks **Tom Kimmel, John Barr, Jacqueline Ginter and Jim Dees/Catalina State Park Volunteer Crew**, for helping us get a start on fencing the new state park boundary to include the Wilma Huggett Conservation Easements on the south end of Oracle State Park. There will be more fence building to be done, but we'll probably wait until Fall when it's cooler.

APS PROJECT

The power-line two-track road through the park will be improved in the next two months, so APS (Arizona Public Service – power company) can access and replace a power pole damaged by lightening, located on the ridge between the Kannally Wash and Cottonwood Wash. It's an under-used multi-use trail that will be more accessible for mountain bikers, hikers and equestrians. Another bonus is the APS contractor will clear more dead trees and brush from both major washes, for vehicle access to the work site. This will open up more trail segments for bird-watching and hiking, and improve firebreaks as well.

MORE THANK YOUS...

Thanks Friends of Oracle State Park

Thanks F.O.S.P. Board for planning the Wine Tasting Fundraiser that helped boost the park's attendance and revenue for the last week in March, and provided an enjoyable afternoon event at the Kannally Ranch House.

THANK YOU Jacqueline Ginter for a job well done as Operations Intern for two months at Oracle State Park!

Thanks Gene Smith for installing commemorative bricks and providing a map for visitors to find theirs!

Thanks again Mary Bast for leading almost every house tour offered while the park was open. It was an incredible help to have the tours covered each week, and I know you did an excellent job because I would hear the cheers and claps at the end!

Thanks **Chance Cooper** for your cowboy skills, improving the fence-line along the Cherry Valley Wash and identifying and fixing breaks. Thanks also for running the historic gas-powered water pump at the corrals for a Pump-house Demo for the public in March, and for help clearing fuels around the corrals and residence. Gardeners should appreciate your donation of organic mule fertilizer!

WILDLIFE & WILDFLOWER SIGHTINGS

Spring at Oracle State Park has been the season of the rattlesnakes – staking out an inconvenient spot under the public toilets and coiling around each-other in a dance photographed at the corrals.

It's been an equally abundant year for the orange Mariposa Lily. Oracle State Park is still enjoying blooms of penstemon, globe-mallow, marigold, heliotrope and more colorful displays.



TIMESHEETS

Please help me estimate accurate volunteer hours to submit to Phoenix by the end of June! I need to update each volunteer's timesheet since January 2012 to present. Thank you to everyone who has submitted your hours online! I will try to contact all others in the next few weeks to estimate your time –

please send me an email or call if you can help me out.

Sorry to those of you who haven't yet received your annual Volunteer Park Pass/I.D. Card. If you've volunteered 50 hours in the last year, you deserve one!